hereby incorporated by reference into the subject application. --

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4-43, 46, and 49-51 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1 to 51 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, applicants have canceled claims 4-43, 46, and 49-51 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 44, 45, 47 and 48 will be pending and under examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. \$1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (EXHIBIT 1). The following references were previously cited in connection with the prosecution of U.S. Serial Number 09/145,864 from which the subject application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. \$120. According to 37 C.F.R. \$1.98(d), copies of patents or publications that were previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office in connection with such prior applications need not accompany the Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, copies of the following references are not attached to this Information Disclosure Statement:

- 1. U.S. Patent No. 4,985,352, issued January 15, 1991, Julius, et al;
- 2. U.S. Patent No. 5,155,218, issued October 13, 1992, Weinshank, et al.;
- 3. U.S. Patent No. 5,360,735, issued November 1, 1994, Weinshank, et al.;
- 4. U.S. Patent No. 5,472,866, issued December 5, 1995, Gerald, et al.;
- 5. U.S. Patent No. 5,476,782, issued December 19, 1995, Weinshank, et al.;
- 6. U.S. Patent No. 5,661,024, issued August 26, 1997, Kao et al.;
- 7. U.S. Patent No. 5,885,785; issued March 23, 1999, Kao et al.;
- 8. European Patent Application EP 0 565 370, published October 13, 1993;
- 9. French Patent Application No. 2696749, published April 15, 1994;
- 10. PCT International Patent Publication No. 95/06117, published March 2, 1995;
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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed \$710.00 fee for filing the subject application, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

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